

in true Montana tradition this harvest season.

Cliff Gullickson was killed in a farm accident when the grain truck he was driving to Big Sandy rolled on August 8. Neighbors rallied together the way only agricultural folks can to harvest the Gullickson's grain.

Some of the combines came from 50 miles away for the harvest and all started the day with a prayer for their safety and for Cliff Gullickson. In four hours the remaining 170 acres were harvested.

Don Jenkins, who lives on the northeast border of the Gullickson's farm said, "This is what you do when there's a tragedy. This is their bread and butter. This is their livelihood sitting out in this field." That statement summarizes the attitude and depth of feeling prevalent in farming and ranching.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the Gullickson family for the loss of a fine person who dedicated his life to agriculture and also commend them for their hard work and dedication to the agricultural community.

Additionally, I commend each and every neighbor who lent a helping hand this harvest season in the face of a tragedy.●

NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

● Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to draw the Senate's attention to National Assisted Living Week. The National Center for Assisted Living is sponsoring National Assisted Living Week this week to highlight the significance and the hope that this type of service can provide seniors.

Assisted living is a long term care alternative for seniors who need more assistance than is available in retirement communities, but do not require the heavy medical and nursing care provided by nursing facilities. Approximately one million of our nation's seniors have chosen the option of assisted living in this country. This demonstrates a tremendous desire by seniors and their families to have the kind of assistance that they need in bathing, taking medications or other activities of daily living in a setting that truly becomes their home.

This year's theme of National Assisted Living Week is "A Community of Families" and I think that is appropriate because assisted living encourages the involvement of families in the lives of the residents of assisted living facilities, and because this option can mean so much for seniors and their families.

Oregon has led our nation in pioneering the concept of assisted living and the state spends more state health dollars to provide assisted living services than any other state in our nation. Assisted living has taken different directions in different states and I believe providing these choices for consumers is important to provide security, dignity and independence for seniors.

Assisted living will become even more important as an option of seniors and their families as our nation experiences the tsunami of aging baby boomers. It is important for us to continue to support options that allow seniors and their families a choice of settings in order to assure that they get the level of care that they need.●

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PAYROLL WEEK 1999

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of National Payroll Week 1999, which has been designated as September 13-17.

National Payroll Week was founded by the American Payroll Association in 1996 to honor the men and women whose tax contributions support the American Dream and the payroll professionals who are dedicated to processing those contributions.

In particular, the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of the American Payroll Association represents 200,000 residents and 25 businesses in Pennsylvania. These taxpayers contribute millions of dollars to the federal and state treasuries through payroll taxes each year. These taxes help pay for important civic projects including roads, schools, crime prevention, and national defense. In addition, taxpayers and payroll professionals are partners in maintaining the Social Security and Medicare systems.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the taxpayers and payroll professionals who, through the payment, collection, and reporting of payroll taxes, have helped make our nation great.●

CONGRATULATING DR. SUPACHAI PANITCHPAKDI

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I congratulate Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi of Thailand on his selection to serve as Director General of the World Trade Organization. Dr. Supachai, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, has been an unfailing advocate for the principles of free trade and is an excellent choice to lead this organization. I am very pleased that our faithful friend and ally, the Royal Kingdom of Thailand, will have one of their citizens guiding an international organization.

The agreement reached will split the next term between Dr. Supachai and Michael Moore, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand. As many of my colleagues know, the process for selecting a new Director General was at a standstill for months. Renato Ruggerio of Italy, the first and very successful Director General, finished his term and stepped down at the end of April. Despite the fact that his departure was known well in advance, no consensus on a successor was formed and the post remained vacant at a critical time—the Seattle round of trade talks being on the immediate horizon. Most of the

countries of Europe and Asia have been united in their support of Dr. Supachai while the administration has supported Mr. Moore. The agreement reached by the member nations will permit Mr. Moore to serve a three year term to be followed by a three year term for Dr. Supachai.

For those of you unfamiliar with Dr. Supachai's work, as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce, his most pressing responsibility has been developing policy to guide his country through their current economic challenges. This included taking a significant role in shepherding important banking and regulatory reforms through the Thai Parliament that are important to the sound economic foundation of his country. The IMF has reported good news for Thailand on the economic front. After experiencing an economic contraction of 8% in 1997, their economy is expected to grow this year by 2-3% with an expected growth rate of 5% in 2000. Their currency, the baht, has stabilized and the government has rebuilt reserves to higher than pre-crisis levels. This is very good news and a positive sign for an economic recovery for all of Asia.

Dr. Supachai was also one of the architects of the economic policies that led his country to merge as a dynamic economic engine in Asia and experience several years of phenomenal economic growth. As Minister of Commerce he has been active in opening the business sector to foreign participation and improving transparency. He helped create the country's Export-Import Bank and has worked very closely with the countries of Southeast Asia in creating the ASEAN free trade zone. In Thailand, he was a strong voice in forging public acceptance of the Uruguay round of trade talks and guiding ratification of the treaty through the Parliament. Throughout the economic crisis, Dr. Supachai's support for free trade has not wavered. His credentials on the issues important to leadership at the WTO speak volumes.

I believe it is important that an individual representing Asia and a developing economy has an important role in a prominent international organization, as Dr. Supachai will have. There are over 400 million people living in Southeast Asia alone, this region will soon be the second largest market for our exports. This region and all of Asia are growing in importance to our economy and security. A strong voice representing the Asian economies is overdue.

The economic collapse in Asia, Russia and other nations did not simply stifle growth of U.S. exports, it put millions of people out of work in these countries, exacerbated the poverty level and in some cases led to social upheaval. Unfortunately, it caused policy makers in many foreign nations to question the pace of globalization and in some cases question the wisdom of globalization. Many countries believe that they have little to gain through